

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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O P 310314Z DEC 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 311130 TOSEC 130067

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR

SUBJECT: SCHMIDT VISIT TO EGYPT

1. SUMMARY. REPORTING ON CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S RECENT VISIT TO EGYPT, GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICER CONTRASTED SADAT'S OPTIMISM, AS REFLECTED DURING HIS PRIVATE MEETING WITH SCHMIDT, WITH DISAPPOINTMENT OF OTHER SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AT ISMAILIA SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. GERMAN MINISTER-COUNSELOR PETER BAZING CALLED ON SOBER (NEA) DECEMBER 30 TO REPORT ON GERMAN IMPRESSIONS FROM SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO EGYPT. DURING LENGTHY PRIVATE DISCUSSION, SADAT HAD GONE INTO SOME DETAIL ABOUT HIS TALKS WITH BEGIN, THOUGH NOT INTO DETAILS OF BEGIN'S 26-POINT

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PROPOSAL. SADAT HAD DESCRIBED BEGIN'S PERSONALITY AS POSITIVE; HE FELT BEGIN WAS HONEST, SINCERE, AND A STRONG LEADER. SADAT SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT BEGIN WOULD WELCOME PRESSURE FROM ABROAD THAT WOULD ENABLE HIM TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS. SADAT HAD TOLD SCHMIDT THAT HE REMAINS COMMITTED TO AN OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT AND IS NOT PREPARED TO CONCLUDE A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL.

SADAT WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR ISRAEL, ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS, TO CONCLUDE A PEACE AGREEMENT. SADAT

HAD ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED, ONCE EGYPT AND ISRAEL RESOLVE IN PRINCIPLE THE BILATERAL ISSUES BETWEEN THEM, BEGIN WOULD COME UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH THE OTHER CONFRONTATION STATES. SCHMIDT'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT SADAT WAS "NOT SKEPTICAL" ABOUT CHANCES FOR A SETTLEMENT.

3. SADAT TOLD SCHMIDT HE THINKS DAYAN IS READY TO MAKE MORE CONCESSIONS. HE ALSO HAD A GOOD IMPRESSION OF WEIZMAN AND YADIN. WHILE STRONGLY CRITICAL OF PLO LEADER ARAFAT, SADAT SEEMED MUCH MORE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD, TELLING SCHMIDT THAT ASSAD WAS CONSTRAINED BY INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN SYRIA. SADAT ALSO SAID SAUDI ARABIA STRONGLY SUPPORTS HIS EFFORTS THOUGH IT IS UNWILLING TO SHOW OPEN SUPPORT.

4. SCHMIDT ASKED SADAT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF PEACE INITIATIVE WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL. SADAT REPLIED THAT UNDER THE NEW EGYPTIAN CONSTITUTION MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER SO THAT THERE ARE OTHER LEADERS WHO ARE ABLE TO TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT.

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5. GENERAL IMPRESSION OF WEST GERMAN DELEGATION, BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER GOE OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY NEW FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL WHO IS WELL-KNOWN TO THEM, IS THAT REMAINDER OF GOE IS NOT AS OPTIMISTIC AS SADAT APPEARS TO BE. THERE WAS A DEFINITE IMPRESSION OF DISAPPOINTMENT ON PART OF GOE OFFICIALS ABOUT THE ISMAILIA SUMMIT. IT WAS GENERALLY FELT THAT THE ISRAELIS OFFERED FAR LESS THAN GOE'S MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS. THERE WAS SOME ANGER ABOUT BEGIN'S USE OF THE WORDS JUDEA AND SAMARIA (RATHER THAN REFERENCE TO WEST BANK) AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. EGYPTIANS HAD ALSO BEEN ANNOYED AT BEGIN'S REJECTION OF GOE EFFORT TO WORK OUT A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES THAT RESOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM SHOULD BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF UN CHARTER.

6. WEST GERMAN DELEGATION ALSO FELT THAT THERE WAS INCREASING CONCERN AMONG SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS ABOUT SADAT'S FUTURE. THEY BELIEVE THAT SADAT'S DOMESTIC POSITION HAD SUFFERED AS RESULT OF ISMAILIA SUMMIT AND WOULD BE WEAKENED PROGRESSIVELY IF RESUMED PEACE TALKS DO NOT BRING RESULTS IN NEAR FUTURE.

7. PERSONAL NOTE: BAZING NOTED THAT HE KNEW FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL QUITE WELL FROM PREVIOUS SERVICE IN BONN.

HE CONSIDERED KAMEL NOT A STRONG PERSONALITY BUT AS LOYAL, FAIR, AND HONEST. HE HAD BEEN A SOLID AND EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE IN BONN THOUGH NOT AN ASSERTIVE ONE. CHRISTOPHER

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